



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Andrew Whalen, Communications Director
office: (202) 225-6401 / cell: (202) 731-5116

Reps. Shuler, Jordan Send Letter to House Leadership Supporting Pro-Life Riders

Washington, D.C. – U.S Representatives Heath Shuler (D-NC) and Jim Jordan (R-OH) sent a letter to leaders in the House of Representatives today requesting that all traditional pro-life protections be kept in the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bills.

Pro-life “riders” have been in appropriations bills since 1976, through both Democratic and Republican Congresses and Administrations. The riders prevent taxpayer funds from being used to perform or support abortions and the organizations that perform them.

The letter, signed by 180 pro-life members from both parties, urges Congressional leaders to maintain the integrity of the riders or, at a minimum, allow an up-or-down vote on each amendment on the House floor.

“As elected leaders, we have a responsibility to protect life at all its stages, from conception to natural death,” Rep. Shuler stated. “I am proud to stand up with colleagues from both sides of the aisle to fight for the rights of the unborn.”

The entire text of the letter is below.

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Committee
H-232 The Capitol

David Obey
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
H-218 The Capitol

Louise Slaughter
Chairwoman, Rules Committee
H-312 The Capitol

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Obey, and Chairwoman Slaughter:

We write to you today about critical pro-life policies that may become contentious in the upcoming appropriations process. As you know, for many years pro-life measures have been added to the various appropriations bills to prevent taxpayer dollars from being used to promote or perform abortion, protect the consciences of health care professionals, and prevent funding for unethical human embryo experiments. Often referred to as pro-life

riders, each year these provisions are included in legislation reported out of Appropriations subcommittees.

Some of these measures have been in place for over thirty years. The Hyde Amendment, for example, has been in effect since 1976. Enacted under a Democratic Congress, the Hyde Amendment has been renewed by administrations and congresses regardless of party control. Members of both parties have expressed strong support for these measures, which reflect the moral concerns of many Americans who do not wish to see their tax dollars used for any organization that provides abortion services.

We respectfully request that the pro-life riders be included in any legislation reported out of the Appropriations Committee. We believe that failure to include all of the current policies with regard to the right to life will mark a radical departure from a policy a majority of Americans support. If you choose to take such action, then we ask that the Rules Committee report a rule that allows for consideration of any deleted riders on the floor of House of Representatives. The magnitude of this issue and the history associated with it require no less. If this Congress intends to rescind these riders, at a minimum the American people deserve a full debate with an up-or-down vote. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

Heath Shuler
Member of Congress

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